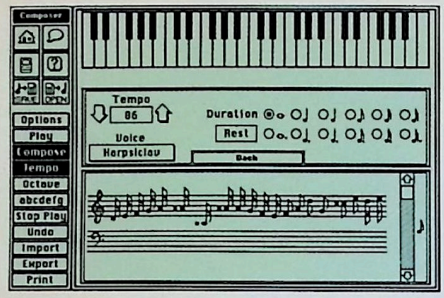
SuperStacks

The 1989 Winners

The best HyperCard stacks in ten categories

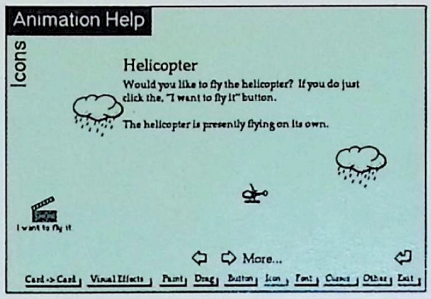
by Liza Weiman

Mail call during a *Macworld* contest is always amazing. Bearing postmarks from around the world, entries begin to arrive in ones and twos. Soon they are delivered in boxes. Near the contest deadline, we watch them stack up (no pun intended) with a dazed expression on our faces. Judging over 400 excellent entries may not measure up to such Herculean tasks as stealing the golden apples of the Hesperides or killing the Hydra, but we thought it was a lot to ask of a group of mere mortals. Luckily, our judges performed like epic heroes.



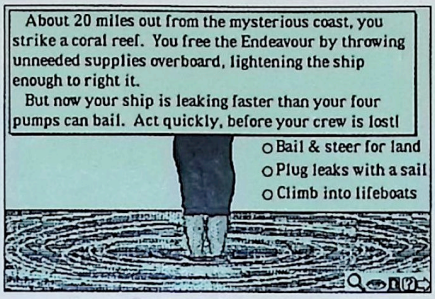
Mac Bach

HyperComposer makes it easy to write music for stacks. Selecting the note on the lower right, for instance, transforms the musical notes on the staff to HyperTalk text. Changing the voice, tempo, or duration of the notes is as simple as selecting from pop-up menus. You can export your song to another stack using the Export tool on the palette at left.



Unattended Flight

In this animation example, the cursor has been replaced by a helicopter. Clicking on the Show icon begins a demonstration of pilotless flight around the screen; clicking on the helicopter lets you fly it with the mouse. The cut-away tabs along the bottom of the screen take you to cards that demonstrate other animation techniques.



That Sinking Feeling

Simulations created with winning stack Alias demand quick thinking, creative problem solving, and accurate historical knowledge. Here Captain Cook's ship has foundered on a coral reef and the entire crew will be lost unless the student knows that plugging the leaks with a sail was a commonplace practice in eighteenth-century seacraft.

The overall quality of this year's stacks testifies to the growing maturity of the HyperCard community; more stacks did more things very well. Most interestingly, many of the winning stacks are actually tool kits that make it easier for nonprogrammers to take full advantage of the powers of HyperTalk. In the words of one of our winners, "The really great thing about HyperCard is that it makes room for generalists to succeed in a society that usually rewards single-minded people."

The judges from Apple Computer's engineering, product development, marketing, and multimedia teams were Doug Doyle, Mike Holm, Carol Kaehler, Kristee Kreitman, Leslie Liedtka, Steve Maller, and Linda Stone. Our other judges were Amanda Goodenough, author of Amanda-Stories I & II; Bob Goodenough, member of the original HyperCard Team; Nancy Dunn, *Macworld* contributing editor; and Raines Cohen, chairman of BMUG's board of directors.

The judging criteria included creativity, appropriate use of HyperCard's features, interface design, success in meeting the stack's stated goals, and scripting elegance. All of the winning stacks presented a clear navigational structure; a pleasing graphic design; and each one instructed, entertained, or challenged us to think about old problems in new ways.

Here is a brief overview of each of the first place stacks.

HyperComposer—Commercial

With HyperComposer, our winner in the Best Commercial Stack category, you can compose, edit, view, play, and print music without being a HyperTalk programmer. Developers Randy McCallum and Lloyd Bernhardt initially developed HyperComposer as an in-house tool for adding music to corporate presentations. Once it was in beta form, however, they realized that it had larger commercial potential. The publishing house of Addison-Wesley agreed and together they now have a hit on their hands.

To write music into a HyperCard stack, users must ordinarily type in a play command, complete with a specified voice, tempo, pitch, and duration for each note. HyperComposer lets you compose music by placing notes on a staff, clicking on a piano keyboard graphic with the mouse, or (if you insist) typing in the notes as text (see "Mac Bach"). Better yet, HyperComposer can automatically convert a HyperTalk score (text) into a printable musical score (notes on a staff).

MATTHEW MCVAY

HyperComposer

The developers of HyperComposer, Lloyd Bernhardt (left) and Randy McCallum (right), demonstrate yet another way to compose music for HyperCard stacks, the old-fashioned way. Lloyd and Randy used to develop multimedia presentations for the IBM PC.

"Our goal," said McCallum, "was to make the power of HyperTalk available to people who aren't programmers. Everything HyperComposer can do has always been available in HyperCard, but there was just no interface for it."

Animation Help—Noncommercial

Using Animation Help, Jeremy Ahouse's winning noncommercial stack, even a novice HyperCard author can make snakes slither, balls bounce, helicopters fly, Macs rotate in space, and the starship *Enterprise* come in for a landing. Best of all you can examine the scripts behind these examples and learn how to animate your own work.

Each screen of Animation Help illustrates a specific animation technique—card-to-card, icon, font, cursor, and so forth. You simply click on the Show icon for a demonstration of it (see "Unattended Flight"). "I was teaching classes on animation techniques," said Ahouse, "and I wanted to create something that was fun

1989 WINNER'S CIRCLE

Listed here are the 10 categories and 34 winners for the 1989 SuperStacks HyperCard application contest—cosponsored with Apple Computer.

BEST COMMERCIAL STACK

First Place
HyperComposer—Motion Works, published by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company
Second Place
The Electronic Whole Earth Catalog—The Point Foundation, published by Brøderbund Software
Honorable Mention
Golf Doctor—Nathan L. Tennies, Bootstrap Enterprises, 1 Step Software

BEST NONCOMMERCIAL STACK

First Place
Animation Help—Jeremy Ahouse
Second Place
Letter Learner—Robert Orenstein
Honorable Mention
If Monks Had Macs—Brian Thomas and Philip A. Moore Jr.

BEST EDUCATIONAL STACK

First Place
Alias—Brodie Lockard, CAT Project, Stanford University
Second Place
Vivo II—Bernard Lavie, Educational Computing Consortium B.V.
Honorable Mention
The Family Life Education Stack—Steve Hambleton, Marigold Elementary School
Honorable Mention
KanjiCards—Clate Sanders, Dezso Benedek, and Junko Majima, University of Georgia

BEST CUSTOM STACK

First Place
Basics of Digital Voice Technology—Codex Educational Services and Butler, Raila and Company
Second Place
Movies on Video—Bruce Charonnat, Clement Mok Designs
Honorable Mention
MacLife—Eric Azarcon, HeartBeat Software Solutions
Honorable Mention
CallBack 3.0—Matthew Coates, The Broadcast Group

BEST DEVELOPMENT TOOL

First Place
HyperSound 2.0—Dan Callaway and Joe Sensendorf, Farallon Computing
Second Place
HyperComposer—Motion Works, published by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company
Honorable Mention
Dartmouth XCMD's, Volumes I–III—Roger Brown and Kevin Calhoun, Dartmouth College
Honorable Mention
The Voyager Videostack—The Voyager Company

BEST MULTIMEDIA APPLICATION

First Place
The '88 Vote: Campaign for the White House—David Bohrman, Larry Wood, and William E. Lord, ABC News Interactive
Second Place
Cardiac Imaging—Patrick Lynch and Carl Jaffe, Yale University
Honorable Mention
Vincent van Gogh Laserguide—The Voyager Company

BEST INTERFACE DESIGN

First Place
Movies on Video—Bruce Charonnat, Clement Mok Designs
Second Place
Basics of Digital Voice Technology—Codex Educational Services and Butler, Raila and Company
Honorable Mention
Cardiac Imaging—Patrick Lynch and Carl Jaffe, Yale University
Honorable Mention
Vincent van Gogh Laserguide—The Voyager Company

MOST ARTISTIC STACK

First Place
Signs of Type—Zuzana Licko
Second Place
Passing Notes—Brian Thomas and Philip A. Moore Jr.
Honorable Mention
The Family Life Education Stack—Steve Hambleton, Marigold Elementary School
Honorable Mention
3Com—David Donaldson, HyperPro

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: BEST STACK FOR UNDER $20

Honorable Mention
Conservation Biology Questions—Jeremy Ahouse
Honorable Mention
Freedom Trail—BCS Mac, MacStackGroup, Boston Computer Society
Honorable Mention
HyperCard and History—Steve Grass

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES

Honorable Mention
Doko Kara Kitano? (Where Is the Cat From?)—Masayo Ohashi, Japan
Honorable Mention
ManagerSpot—Andreas W. Vichr, West Germany

For a close-up look at the winners, *Macworld* and Apple Computer are pleased to announce that the winning stacks will be available on CD ROM. Return this coupon for more information.

Yes! Count me in! I would like to know more about the *Macworld* Apple Computer CD ROM of the SuperStacks winners. Send information to me at:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Return, with SASE, to: Macworld Magazine - CD ROM Project, 501 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94107

SEARCHING FOR STACKS

For those of you who hunger for more stacks, here's a brief listing of resources for your hunt.

Budgetbytes offers over 500 public domain and shareware stacks for $3.19 per single-sided disk, $5.99 per double-sided disk. Budgetbytes, 1647 S.W. 41st St., Topeka, KS 66609; 800/356-3551.

EduCorp provides public domain and shareware software for $6.99 per disk. EduCorp, 531 Stevens Ave., Ste. B, Solana Beach, CA 92705; 800/843-9497.

Heizer Software offers over 300 stackware titles ranging from $6 to $99. Heizer Software, P.O. Box 232019, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; 415/943-7667.

HyperMedia and Instructional StackWare Clearinghouse (HISC) is a clearinghouse of high-quality instructional, administrative, and utility stackware for educators and trainers. Contact Scott Brabinger, University of Colorado at Denver, Campus Box 106, 1200 Larimer St., Denver, CO 80204-5300; CompuServe 76136,2073.

Maxstax+ is a nationwide, mail-order publisher and developer of HyperCard software. Maxstax+, P.O. Box 2719, Oakland, CA 94602; 415/530-1971, 800/544-0577.

Online Services such as CompuServe (614/457-0802, 800/848-8199), GEnie (301/340-4000, 800/638-9636), and Connect (MacNet) (408/973-0110) are always a good source for stackware, gossip, and vital Macintosh news.

Somak Software has over 300 stacks of public domain and shareware programs for $8.99 per disk. For a free catalog, write Somak Software, Inc., 535 Encinitas Blvd., #113, Encinitas, CA 92024; 619/942-2556, orders 800/842-5020.

The Complete HyperCard Buyer's Guide is a 700K stack listing all major commercial stackware available. $10 from Digital Media Publications, Inc., MIT Branch, P.O. Box 315, Cambridge, MA 02139; 617/494-8196. Free from CompuServe, GEnie, and many user groups.

The Public Domain Exchange publishes *The Best Mac Deal*, a directory of public domain and shareware stacks, and a quarterly *PDE Magazine*. $20 membership fee includes a free directory, the magazine, and quarterly membership specials. The Public Domain Exchange, 2074C Walsh Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050; 408/496-0624, 800/331-8125.

User groups are a great stack resource; here are two that come to the national shows, but check your local one too. See *Macworld's* User Group Directory, September 1989, or call Apple's User Group hotline 800/538-9696.

Apple Corps of Dallas & Mac Pack offer over 500MB of stacks for $7 per disk. Each disk comes with an index and explanatory read-me file. Write Doug Redman, Sunrise Electronics Inc., 1715 N. Broadway, Carrollton, TX 75006; 214/242-3366, fax 214/242-8840.

BMUG PD Library offers more than 2000 HyperCard stacks on floppy disks, organized by topic, for $4 each. Their PD ROM, available for $100, is also chock-full of HyperCard treasures. To order stacks, write or call BMUG HyperCard Library, 1442A Walnut St., #62, Berkeley, CA 94709; 415/549-2684.

BCS offers a monthly series of the best available stackware from all the major electronic BBSs and its own sources. Twice yearly BCS also offers compilations of the best of the monthly finds, the StackSet. Best of BCS Development Tools and Best of BCS Stackware (five-disk subsets) are also available twice yearly. All disks are $4 per disk for members, $10 per disk for nonmembers. A catalog is available for $15. BCS Mac Office, 48 Grove St., Somerville, MA 02140; 617/625-7080.

and accessible enough to draw people into doing simple programming."

With this stack, he clearly achieved his goal. Besides cataloging HyperCard's animation options in a clear and stimulating manner, the stack is a wonderful tool kit that can be torn apart and studied.

Alias—Educational

Imagine yourself as the noted eighteenth-century explorer, Captain James Cook, recently appointed to the command of the *Endeavour Bark* by the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain. To accomplish your task, you must hire a crew, plan your itinerary, captain your vessel, juggle several hidden agendas, and deal with various disasters (see "That Sinking Feeling").

This scenario describes a simulation stack that allows students to make decisions and take actions based on their knowledge of history. The stack was created using Alias, this year's Best Educational Stack winner.

Brodie Lockard created Alias at Stanford's CAT (Course Authoring Tools) Project, to make historical, cultural, and social simulations easy for instructors who have no formal knowledge of computer programming. To use Alias, instructors enter information—including text, graphics, sounds, and even video—about the world they are simulating.

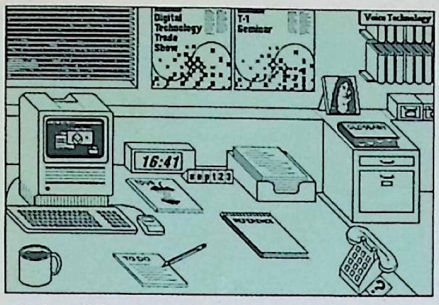
Then, as students move through the simulation, they must make decisions about each event; each choice creates a unique path through the material. Instructors can also create commodity exchange rates and social relationships with ranked status levels, adding complexity to the social and political worlds being re-created.

"The point," says Lockard, "is to let students experiment with situations that are otherwise too expensive, too dangerous, too inconvenient, too time-consuming, or altogether impossible."

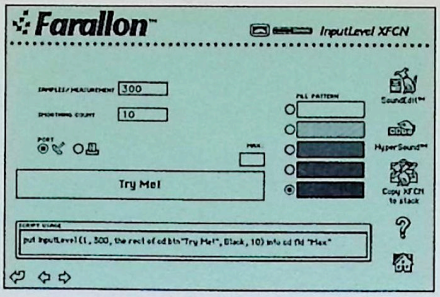
Basics of Digital Voice Technology—Custom

Placing first in the Best Custom Stack category and second in Best Interface Design, Basics of Digital Voice Technology solves a common, and critical, problem. It teaches advanced technology in an entertaining and challenging manner. The stack allows the user to learn through solving problems, presented as increasingly difficult demands from a distant boss, in a simulated environment that encourages self-paced learning.

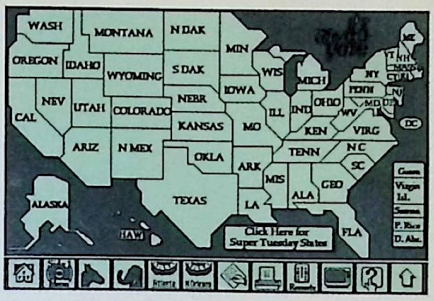
All the information necessary to complete the course is available in the stack (see "At the Office"), and there are clearly identified objectives associated with each of the four challenges you must meet. Self-tests are available to gauge your progress and a certification test at the end rewards the diligent student. The interactive de-



At the Office
This desk is your home base as you try to solve the problems that the boss throws at you. The company library, the T-1 Seminar, the Digital Technology Trade Show, the file cabinet, and the glossary of terms all contain the information you'll need. There is (of course) a Mac for sending the boss your results.



Try Me
To expand your HyperCard sound engineering capabilities, HyperSound offers 11 XCMDs and XFCNs that you can easily place in your own stacks. The Sound Toolkit explains and demonstrates each of them. Here, the InputLevel XFCN allows you to create custom input sliders for your stacks.



20/20 Hindsight
The icons along the bottom of each screen in The '88 Vote make it easy to travel through complex information. The party symbols, for instance, link you to the biography of that party's candidate for president. The Atlanta and New Orleans banners take you to detailed content menus for each convention.

sign of this course makes difficult information easier to learn than it would be by reading a tutorial or attending a lecture.

The stack is the result of a collaboration between Codex Corporation (a division of Motorola) and Butler, Raila and Company, communication consultants. Dennis Hawley, director of educational services at Codex, couldn't be happier with the result. "People love the interactivity, learner control, and the variety of ways to get information from the stack. Also, because it is a self-study program, it helps to keep our training costs down."

HyperSound—Development Tool

HyperSound 2.0, the winner for Best Development Tool, is an update to the software that ships with Farallon Computing's MacRecorder Sound System. Designed by Dan Callaway and Joe Sensendorf, version 2.0 adds the ability to play and record sounds in 3:1, 4:1, 6:1, and 8:1 compressions and offers 11 external commands and functions (XCMDs and XFCNs) that simplify sound editing and recording in HyperCard. HyperSound displays the type, size, and length of a sound resource, and supports the Clipboard, making it easy to cut and paste sounds into your own stacks.

HyperSound also comes with the Sound Toolkit, which explains and demonstrates the external commands and functions that come with HyperSound 2.0 (see "Try Me"). Our judges picked it as this year's best development tool because they felt it lets HyperCard do something that it simply can't do otherwise.

The '88 Vote: Campaign for the White House—Multimedia

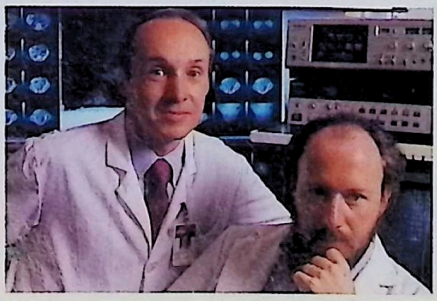
The '88 Vote: Campaign for the White House, winner for Best Multimedia Application, lets you explore the presidential campaign by navigating through a stack that contains detailed information about the election and controls a videodisk full of clips from the ABC archives.

You could begin using The '88 Vote by looking up the biographies and background information on each party's candidates. Or you could watch excerpts from each party's national convention. For further research, you could read the transcripts or watch highlights of the key speeches. You can even hear expert political commentaries on voice-overs if you want to get the inside scoop on the action.

Critical campaign issues are presented in a point-counterpoint fashion and some of the more infamous political commercials of 1988 are available, as well. For a wrap-up of the whole affair, you can take a detailed look at the results on a state-by-state basis (see "20/20 Hindsight").

Besides providing everything a student of the political process might need, The '88 Vote lets you play network producer. With the Documentary Maker you can select up to 15 video clips at a time and cue them up for your own portrait of the race for the White House.

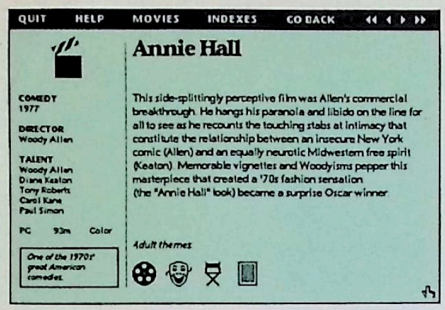
Developed by ABC's David Bohrman, Larry Wood, William E. Lord, and Robert Jordan, The '88 Vote is the first of a planned series of interactive videodisks produced by ABC News Interactive.


EMMETT MARTIN

Cardiac Imaging
Patrick Lynch (right) and Carl Jaffe (left) worked together to create Cardiac Imaging, a multimedia application designed to teach medical interns echocardiography, which is ultrasound of the heart. Patrick did the HyperCard scripting and technical illustrations, while Carl put together the videodisk using his years of expertise as a radiologist.

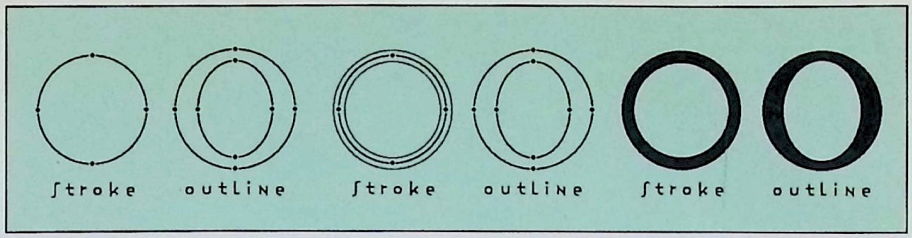
Movies on Video—Interface Design

When The Good Guides asked graphic artist Bruce Charonnat to design a stack based on their guide to movies available on videocassette, Charronat designed the buttons and indexes that allow you to search for movies in ways that a book



Annie Hall

In Movies on Video, nearly everything is linked to another part of the stack. Clicking on the film reel icon, for instance, takes you to other movies that won the Academy Awards for best film selecting Woody Allen's name takes you to more of his work.



O Is for Outline

Signs of Type combines a strikingly clean graphic design with custom PostScript fonts and animation designed to showcase the fonts and teach the techniques used to create them. This animation sequence demonstrates that outline characters require more data points to describe their tapering shapes, taking up more memory than stroke characters do.

simply can't—by title, director, actors, year, length, topic, Academy Award nominations, ratings, and more.

Charonnat's work placed first in the Best Interface Design category and second in the Best Custom Stack. The stack stood out because it is visually appealing, clever (a director's chair icon represents an Academy Award for best director), and always crystal clear. Although Movies on Video maintains an uncluttered look, virtually everything on the screen is a button linked to other related movies or to a navigational icon (see "Annie Hall"). We never got lost while browsing, although we often wished that we could.

Signs of Type—Artistic

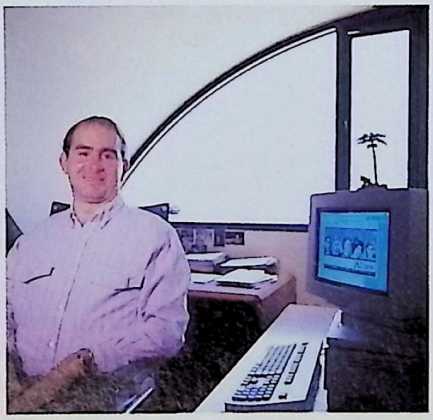
Zuzana Licko developed Signs of Type, this year's winner for Most Artistic Stack, as an educational and promotional tool for her design business. (Her stack also took top honors in the Business and Informational Graphics category in this year's Macintosh Masters art contest.) Licko creates custom Macintosh PostScript typefaces, and her stack complements a booklet of the same name that displays her fonts. She decided to convert the booklet to stack form because she can update it easily and add animation to her work.

It took her three weeks to design and develop Signs of Type. The electronic catalog showcases her fonts while teaching the principles of PostScript font design through elegant animation and succinct description (see "O Is for Outline"). Signs of Type includes samples of each of Licko's custom fonts and an order form that makes it easy to order your favorites.

Special Recognition: Under $20

The good news is that many of the best SuperStacks entries are available for under $20. The bad news is that the judges were simply unable to identify a clear winner for this category—the competition was just too close. Three of the best, however, were singled out as outstanding stacks for an outstanding price and all received an Honorable Mention.

- Jeremy Ahouse, author of Conservation Biology Questions, says that this stack was compiled "with the conviction that it is questions that focus our pursuits and that the clearer our questions are, the better our solutions will be."
- The Freedom Trail was created by members and friends of the BCS Mac MacStackGroup to show off both the potential of HyperCard and the historic richness of Boston.
- Steve Grass wrote HyperCard and History as an aid to teaching social studies. It explores the facts, myths, theories, and legends that surround the assassination of John F. Kennedy.


DRAKE SOREY

Alias

Brodie Lockard, a member of the Course Authoring Tools Project at Stanford University, used HyperCard to create Alias, a general-purpose toolkit that any faculty member can use to create historical, cultural, and social simulations. In the works are a simulation of the life of an early nineteenth-century film mogul, the life of a person born in Japan in 1930, and a recovering cardiac patient.

Special Recognition: International

This year we received SuperStacks entries from Canada, West Germany, England, Japan, and the Netherlands. Two international stacks stood out.

- ManagerSpot, by Andreas W. Vichr of West Germany, was designed as a HyperAd to promote a customized 4th Dimension application.
- *Doko Kara Kitano?* (Where Is the Cat From?), by Masayo Ohashi of Japan, is an adventure tale of a girl and a cat journeying through time and space.

We hope you've enjoyed this glimpse at the winning stacks of the 1989 SuperStacks competition. Watch these pages for next year's deadline. M

See *Where to Buy* for contact information.

SuperStacks 1989 was made possible by support from the following companies: Apple Computer, Jasmine Technologies, National Semiconductor, and Sony Corporation.